

COLUMBIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Policy and Procedure Manual

RAPID RESPONSE AND DEPLOYMENT

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CALEA 6th Edition Standard:

424 RAPID RESPONSE AND DEPLOYMENT

424.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Violence in schools, workplaces and other locations by any individual or group of individuals presents a difficult situation for law enforcement. The purpose of this policy is to identify guidelines and factors that will assist officers in implementing rapid response and deployment to such situations.

424.2 POLICY

The policy of this department in dealing with a crisis situation shall be:

1. To obtain and maintain complete operative control of the incident.
2. To explore every reasonably available source of intelligence regarding the circumstances, location and suspect in the incident.
3. To attempt, by every means available, to attain any tactical advantage over the suspect.
4. To attempt, whenever practicable, a negotiated surrender of the suspect and release of the hostages through the expertise of the members of this department and others.

Nothing in this policy shall preclude the use of necessary force, deadly or otherwise, by members of this department in protecting themselves or others from death or injury.

424.3 PROCEDURE

If there is a reasonable belief that acts or threats by a suspect are placing lives in imminent danger, first responding officers should consider reasonable options to immediately eliminate the threat. Officers must decide, often under a multitude of difficult and rapidly evolving circumstances, whether to advance on the suspect, take other actions to deal with the threat or wait for additional resources.

1. Whether sufficient personnel are available on-scene to advance on the suspect. Any advance on a suspect should be made using two or more officers whenever reasonably possible.
2. Whether individuals who are under imminent threat can be moved out of danger with reasonable safety.
3. Whether the officers have the ability to effectively communicate with others in the field.
4. Whether planned tactics can be effectively deployed.
5. The availability of rifles, shotguns, shields, control devices and any other appropriate tools, and whether the deployment of these tools will provide a tactical advantage.
6. In a case of a barricaded suspect with no hostages and no immediate threat to others, officers should consider summoning and waiting for additional assistance (special tactics and/or hostage negotiation team response).

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7. If a suspect is actively engaged in the infliction of serious bodily harm or other life-threatening activity toward others, the officer should take immediate action, if reasonably possible, to stop the threat presented by the suspect while calling for additional assistance.